



**STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION FOR
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 739
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012
<http://latchildrenscommission.org>**

Monday, May 18, 2015

10:00 AM

AUDIO LINK FOR THE ENTIRE MEETING (15-2443)

Attachments: [AUDIO](#)

Call to Order. (15-2239)

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Kamlager at 10:13 a.m.

Present: Commissioner Maria Brenes, Commissioner Candace Cooper, Commissioner Patricia Curry, Commissioner Wendy Garen, Commissioner Sunny Kang, Commissioner Jacquelyn McCroskey, Commissioner Liz Seipel, Commissioner Wendy B. Smith, Vice Chair Carol O. Biondi and Vice Chair Sydney Kamlager

Excused: Commissioner Genevra Berger, Commissioner Ann E. Franzen, Commissioner John Kim and Commissioner Adrienne Konigar-Macklin

I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

1. Introductions of the May 18, 2015 meeting attendees. (15-2240)

Self-introductions were made.

2. Approval of the May 18, 2015 Meeting Agenda. (15-2241)

On motion of Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Kang, this item was approved.

Ayes: 10 - Commissioner Maria Brenes, Commissioner Candace Cooper, Commissioner Patricia Curry, Commissioner Wendy Garen, Commissioner Sunny Kang, Commissioner Jacquelyn McCroskey, Commissioner Liz Seipel, Commissioner Wendy B. Smith, Vice Chair Carol O. Biondi and Vice Chair Sydney Kamlager

Excused: 4 - Commissioner Genevra Berger, Commissioner Ann E. Franzen, Commissioner John Kim and Commissioner Adrienne Konigar-Macklin

3. Approval of the minutes from the meeting of May 4, 2015. (15-2242)

On motion of Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Kang, this item was approved.

Ayes: 10 - Commissioner Maria Brenes, Commissioner Candace Cooper, Commissioner Patricia Curry, Commissioner Wendy Garen, Commissioner Sunny Kang, Commissioner Jacquelyn McCroskey, Commissioner Liz Seipel, Commissioner Wendy B. Smith, Vice Chair Carol O. Biondi and Vice Chair Sydney Kamlager

Excused: 4 - Commissioner Genevra Berger, Commissioner Ann E. Franzen, Commissioner John Kim and Commissioner Adrienne Konigar-Macklin

Attachments: [SEE SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

II. REPORTS

4. Vice Chair's report for May 18, 2015. (15-2243)

Vice Chair Kamlager reported on the following:

- **Celebration '15, honoring the academic achievements of foster youth, will be held on Thursday, June 18, 2015 at the Walt Disney Concert Hall. Commissioners interested in attending, should RSVP with staff by June 2, 2015.**
- **Introduced and welcomed newly appointed Commissioner Maria Brenes, appointee from the First Supervisorial District, to the Commission for Children and Families.**

By Common Consent, there being no objection

(Commissioners Berger, Franzen, Kim and Konigar-Macklin being absent), the Commission accepted Vice Chair Kamlager's report.

5. Department of Children and Family Services Director's Report for May 18, 2015 by Philip Browning, Director. (15-2244)

Director Browning reported on the following:

On May 15, 2015, 40 new staff members joined the Department of Children and Families Services (DCFS).

Attended the "Strengthening Families Conference" on Saturday, May 16, 2015 at Long Beach City College hosted by the Departments of Children and Family Services, Public Social Services and other non-profit community partners. The conference focused on various topics including: Identifying child abuse and neglect and its impact and Trauma-Informed Care: Effective interventions in the prevention and treatment of toxic stress and trauma.

Reminded the Commissioners that National Foster Care Awareness Month is approaching and the Board of Supervisors' (Board) May 19, 2015 meeting will present scrolls to the DCFS to representative foster families, and to Anthony and Jeanne Pritzker, founders of the non-profit organization: Foster Care Counts, in recognizing June 2015 as "Foster Care Awareness Month" in the County of Los Angeles.

On May 13, 2015, the Board held its Budget Hearings. He commented that the Board's Budget is in a better position than in prior years and noted that there has been a request for additional funding for child care. On June 22, 2015, the Budget will be placed before the Board for final determination.

There are three systems in the State of California that process Medi-Cal, food stamps and CalWORKS. The Affordable Health Care (Obama Care) decision that covered California set up its own personal computer system; however, it has caused glitches in processing applications and has resulted in delays. The County of Los Angeles has concerns on the time it takes to process applications. The new LEADER replacement system is being worked on by the Los Angeles County Departments of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and Public Social Services' (DPSS) staff. DCFS anticipates the program to begin by 2016 and DPSS will begin the program in three months.

The “Electronic Notification” and “Electronic Information” legislative bills are currently before the legislation for approval, and both Bills have no cost associated with them and the participation is voluntary with the option to opt-in and/or opt-out. Currently, notifications of scheduled court hearings are sent through the U.S. mail, and consequently, are received late by the recipients. This system is manual and is dependent on the post office for delivery. The use of an Electronic Notification system that implements the recipient's email address would be very effective. Also, the Hotline receives a huge amount of calls and the goal is to automate the filing process of non-emergency cases by way of the internet.

Among the 3,500 Approved Relative Caregiver Program (ARC) applicants In Los Angeles County, only 50 percent have responded to the application mailers. The goal is to have all of the ARC applicants apply in order to retroactively secure funding.

By Common Consent, there being no objection (Commissioners Berger, Franzen, Kim and Konigar-Macklin being absent), the Commission accepted Director Browning's report.

III. PRESENTATIONS

6. Presentation by Dr. Jacquelyn McCroskey on data compiled by the USC School of Social Work on Los Angeles Pregnant and Parenting Teens in Foster Care. (15-2246)

Dr. McCroskey informed the Commission that Commissioners Curry, McCroskey and the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation have been working for the last year on data (See Supporting Document) that will assist in the coordination and greater understanding of the types of services available for pregnant parenting youth and their children. The data is primarily from two sources: identified youth who have children, and Case Social Worker's cases identifying youth who are pregnant. Among the 384 parenting (as of March 2015), the majority were 18 years of age or older as only small percentage of this group consisted of minors. The data does not reflect the non-Assembly Bill 12 (AB 12) population, nor those 20 years of age and older. There are two reasons: (1) youth are not federally eligible because they did not have a suitable placement on their 18th birthday; or (2) the service component may not have been implemented by the Case Social Worker, in order to track them carefully. Data also reflected that there are 384 parenting teens and more than two-thirds were not minors. From the 384 parenting teens, there have been 424 infants/children, and the parents were under the supervision of DCFS. The 424 baby/children do not all have an open case.

Twenty-five percent of these 424 infants/children have an open DCFS case, and 28 percent of those have an open case residing in the same area of the parenting teen. The infants/children are staying with the parent.

Dr. McCroskey then proceeded to Marilyn Flynn, PhD, USC School of Social Work, PowerPoint presentation (See Supporting Document), and informed that this study is funded by the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation in order to address the question: "If we are going to start focusing on these pregnant parenting teens, what do we know about the programs that are in place Countywide?" The study questioned whether "we really need more services for pregnant and parenting teens...?", which led to research on agencies, programs in agencies and services in programs. Integral missing data was identified as follows: Numbers actually receiving service; service sectors; and system effectiveness and linkage. The study identified 42 programs that are specifically designed for pregnant and parenting teens in foster care. Of these programs, 50 percent offered education and prevention; 32 percent on intervention and treatment; eight percent In-Kind Services; six percent on information and referral; and four percent on early intervention. The programs for pregnant and parenting teens in foster care are available throughout Los Angeles County; however, in certain areas there is more of one particular program than other programs. An early observation of the study indicated that very few programs offered assistance to fathers, teachers, foster parents, grandparents, and siblings. There were no substance abuse treatment programs and very limited mental health services.

By Common Consent, there being no objection (Commissioners Berger, Franzen, Kim and Konigar-Macklin being absent), the Commission received and filed the presentation.

Attachments: [SEE SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)
 [SEE SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

7. Presentation by Donna Fernandez, Program Manager, DCFS Child Welfare Health Section, Bureau of Clinical Resources and Services, on the Los Angeles County Project Team serving the California Foster Youth Pregnancy Prevention Institute. (15-2245)

Ms. Fernandez provided a brief history of the California Foster Youth Pregnancy Prevention Institute (Institute). Los Angeles County was encouraged to apply for participation in the Institute. Through its numerous program efforts and clear policies in place serving the pregnant and parenting teen population, DCFS was particularly engaged by the Institute. Emily Putnam-Hornstein research study on "Cumulative teen birth rates among girls in foster care at age 17: An analysis of linked birth and child protection records from California" was one of the key indicators in implementing the Institute. The County of Los Angeles is one of the six Counties to incorporate youth pregnancy prevention practices into the core programs for foster youth. The other participating Counties are Butte, Napa, San Luis Obispo, Orange and Santa Clara. The Institute brought together six teams of 3-5 individuals from County public child welfare systems for an exclusive, intensive, and customized development experience. This began in December 2014 and will end in June 2015 with continued monitoring and evaluation activities with participants through October 2015. The Institute is a National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy (National Campaign). Co-sponsors for the National Campaign are the American Public Human Services Association (APHSA), and the John Burton Foundation (JBF), with support from the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation. The primary goal of the Institute is for Counties to implement pregnancy prevention evidence-based services into their child welfare practices. The Counties were requested to select up to four strategies. The County of Los Angeles provided the following strategies:

- **Pregnancy prevention curriculum entitled "Making Proud Choices an Adaptation for Youth to Foster Care."**
- **Nurse Family Partnership (NFP) Program, which is a home visitation program. Currently the DCFS already has a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in place with the County of Los Angeles NFP Program. DCFS selected to continue this strategy to strengthen the use of the program. It will also assist DCFS in tracking an accurate count of the number of youth who were referred to the NFP Program. The effort also includes becoming knowledgeable and referring the youth to other home visitation programs if the youth is not eligible under the NFP Program.**

- **Pregnant and Parenting Teen Conferences** is in partnership between DCFS and the Inter-Agency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect (ICAN) Task Force on Pregnant Teen Adolescent. ICAN is the resource specialist that serves each of the conferences or the pregnant parenting youth.
- **The Pregnancy Prevention Curriculum Jointly with Out-of-Home Caregivers and Social Workers.** The County of Los Angeles decided not to select this strategy as DCFS have developed and implemented a mandatory training, titled: "Sexual Health Conversations with Our Social Workers, Supervisors, Public Health Nurses, their Supervisors and the Youth Development Contracted Life Coaches." It is a half-day training, which started a few months ago. It helps the participants identify their own values and gives the workers tools to talk about sexual health with youth, along with great number of resources to use directly with youth and out-of-home caregivers. Another reason this strategy was not selected, DCFS has been working with a resource physician out of Seattle Children's Hospital and the physician is working on a curriculum for pregnancy prevention training for out-of-home caregivers. Out-of-home caregivers are involved in focus groups on how they feel about pregnancy prevention and talking to foster youth about pregnancy prevention. DCFS will be implementing a survey on this training.

The goals that the County Team has selected are:

- **Early Detection Identification of Pregnancy**
- **Decrease First Pregnancy and Subsequent Pregnancies and Increase Youth Access to Accurate Reproductive Health Information.**

By Common Consent, there being no objection (Commissioners Berger, Franzen, Kim and Konigar-Macklin being absent), the Commission received and filed the presentation.

Attachments: [SEE SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

8. Presentation by Jill Bauman, President and Chief Executive Officer of Imagine LA, on their provision of their Family Mentorship Program to pregnant and parenting transition age youth (TAY) families who are exiting the foster care system. (15-2248)

Ms. Bauman informed the Commission that Imagine LA started in 2006 and its vision at that time was to begin to eliminate family homelessness. However, the organization looked at what was happening in the family

homelessness and recognized that there was a gap in the family when the family was coming out of homelessness. To address this gap, volunteers and professionals worked together to work with the family in overcoming this new and positive change. Through this, a mentorship relationship developed as a result of assisting families, the "Family Mentorship Program" (Program) commenced. The Program matches every family member, over age 5, with one-to-one mentor, every family gets a Budget Mentor; other volunteers help with tutoring, child-care, meal planning and more. The Program has three main goals for the family: maintain housing, attain self-sufficiency and ensure every member of the family thrives. The result has been zero recidivism. None of the families who have entered the program returned to homelessness.

Imagine LA also observed that there is a different gap of family homelessness experienced by parenting youth aging out of the DCFS system. The majority of these parenting youth will become homeless as 44 percent of the younger children entering the foster care. Imagine LA enhanced their Family Mentorship Program to include the parenting youth, which will entail the parenting youth to enter the program for two full years to help the family stay together and exit poverty and homelessness. Due to the geographical issues faced by parenting youth, Imagine LA has volunteers who can be matched with a family within a ten-mile radius and can aid in locating services within the area; hence creating a village of support around the parenting youth. The goal of the program is to help parenting youth build relationship skills and connections that empower them to stay together, stay housed, thrive and break the cycle of abuse and neglect.

On April 28, 2015, the County of Los Angeles, Board of Supervisors granted DCFS to enter a contract with Imagine LA for mentorship and support services to pregnant and parenting transition-aged youth (TAY) exiting the Los Angeles County foster care system. The total amount of \$202,000 for the contract is financed from the County's Assembly Bill 2994 (AB 2994) funds, administered by ICAN.

Ms. Bauman introduced Ciera Thorton, who will be one of the spokesperson to the parenting youths in the Program. Ms. Thorton shared with the Commission her journey from an abandoned child by a drug addict parent, adopted by a family who demeaned her, being in an abusive relationship, having a child on her own, joining the program and currently is employed by Imagine LA.

The Commission congratulated on her accomplishments and wishes her well in her future endeavors.

By Common Consent, there being no objection (Commissioners Berger, Franzen, Kim and Konigar-Macklin being absent), the Commission received and filed the presentation.

Attachments: [SEE SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

IV. DISCUSSION/APPROVAL

9. Discussion and approval on the Commission for Children and Families' responses to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors and Chief Executive Office on the Health Integration Draft Report. (15-2254)

The Commission did not take action on this item.

Attachments: [SEE SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

V. MISCELLANEOUS

Matters Not Posted

10. Matters not posted on the agenda, to be discussed and (if requested) placed on the agenda for action at a future meeting of the Commission, or matters requiring immediate action because of an emergency situation or where the need to take action arose subsequent to the posting of the agenda. (15-2250)

There were none.

Announcements

11. Announcements for the meeting of May 18, 2015. (15-2251)

There were none.

Public Comment

12. Opportunity for members of the public to address the Commission on item(s) of interest that are within the jurisdiction of the Commission. (15-2252)

Kruti Parech and Nancy Morales addressed the Commission.

Adjournment

13. Adjournment for the meeting of May 18, 2015. (15-2253)

The meeting adjourned at 12:01 p.m.